

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). An acoustically effective underbody covering (1, 1', 1'', 1''', 1''') for motor vehicles, having a support part (2, 2', 2'', 2''', 2''') attachable to the underbody (12) of the motor vehicle and at least one sound-absorbing part (3) supported thereby, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sound-absorbing part (3) is at least partially covered on top with a microperforated, heat-shielding layer (14), the microperforated, heat-shielding layer (14) being exposed toward the underbody (12) of the motor vehicle and the sound-absorbing part (3) being made of mineral wool, an open-pored foam, and/or a fibrous nonwoven material.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sound-absorbing part (3) and the microperforated, heat-shielding layer (14) are positioned at a distance to one another.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to Claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one further sound-absorbing part (3), whose top is exposed, is supported on the support part (2, 2', 2'', 2''', 2''').

Claim 4 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the sound-absorbing part (3) is clamped and/or supported in a form-fitting way around its edge on the support part (2, 2', 2'', 2''', 2''').

Claim 5 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 4, characterized in that~~ wherein the sound-absorbing part (3) is permeable to air.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 5, characterized in that~~ wherein the sound-absorbing part (3) is formed by one or more air-permeable and/or open-pored material layers.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 6, characterized in that~~

wherein the bottom of the support part (2, 2', 2'', 2''', 2''') is implemented largely or as a whole with a smooth surface.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 7, characterized in that~~ wherein the sound-absorbing part (3) is covered on the bottom with a perforated film which is externally exposed.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 8, characterized in that~~ wherein the sound-absorbing part (3) is set in a passage implemented in the support part.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to Claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a peripheral rib (15, 15'), which projects upward and/or downward, is implemented on the edge of the passage (10).

Claim 11 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 10, characterized in that~~ wherein multiple passages (10) are implemented in the support part (2, 2', 2'', 2''', 2'''), in each of which a sound-absorbing part is set.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 11, characterized in that~~ wherein the support part (2, 2', 2'', 2''', 2''') has oscillation-decoupling elements (5), via which the support part is attachable to the underbody of the motor vehicle.

Claim 13 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 12, characterized in that~~ wherein the support part (2, 2', 2'', 2''', 2''') is designed in such a way that it forms an essentially closed cavity (16) with the underbody (12) of the motor vehicle in the mounted state.

Claim 14 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 13, characterized in that~~ wherein the support part (2, 2', 2'', 2''', 2''') is shaped in such a way that, in the mounted state of the underbody covering (1, 1', 1'', 1''', 1'''), its microperforated, heat-shielding layer (14) and/or its sound-absorbing part (3), whose top is exposed, are each at a distance to the underbody (12) of the motor vehicle.

Claim 15 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 14, characterized in that~~

wherein at least one opening (17), which is used for cooling airflow against an exhaust train section (13) or another heat-releasing vehicle assembly, is implemented on the support part (2''').

Claim 16 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 15, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one air channel (18) is implemented on the support part (2''').

Claim 17 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 16, characterized in that~~ wherein the sound-absorbing part (3) has hydrophobic and/or oleophobic properties.

Claim 18 (currently amended). The underbody covering according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 17, characterized in that~~ wherein the microperforated, heat-shielding layer (14) is clamped, cast in, or extrusion coated around the edge on the support part (2, 2', 2'', 2''', 2''').